

Poly's perfect gift:

Students have gourmet cuisine on own doorstep, 4

Own medicine:

Bin Laden needs sex change, 6

**TODAY'S WEATHER**High: 76°
Low: 47°

Mustang

DAILY

Wednesday, October 24, 2001

Volume LXVI, Number 30, 1916-2001

Film searches for causes of breast cancer

Documentary aims to stress importance of environmental factors to causes of breast cancer

By Kat Corey

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is quickly coming to an end and the Cal Poly Women's Program wants to send it off with a bang.

Along with San Luis Obispo Cancer Action Now (SLOCAN) and Student Life and Leadership, the Women's Program will be showing "Rachel's Daughters," a documentary that searches for the causes of breast cancer. The screening will be held in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohen Center at 5:30 p.m. today and attendees are encouraged to stay for refreshments and discussion after.

Ginny Monteen, a breast cancer survivor and director of SLOCAN, said "Rachel's Daughters" is a very moving film that actually inspired the start of their newly established program.

"When I saw this movie, it gave me hope," she said. "There was a lot of good information that hasn't been discussed before."

"Rachel's Daughters," directed by Allie Light and Irving Saraf, is a detective story and detailed analysis of the science and politics of breast cancer. It began in response

to a tragedy. The 39-year-old daughter of Light and Saraf had been diagnosed with breast cancer. As parents, they wanted to know why, and as filmmakers, they set out to investigate.

The documentary follows a group of women — all breast cancer activists whom are fighting or have survived the disease — whom are on a personal mission to unearth the causes of breast cancer. Seeing themselves as spiritual heirs of author Rachel Carson, whose 1962 book "Silent Spring" warned of the dangers of DDT exposure, they focus on issues including chemical contamination, radiation and electromagnetic exposure in order to find breast cancer's causes, according to the Women Make Movies Web site. Addressing environmental racism, inequalities in research funding and disparities in cancer rates for women of color, they track the effects of social biases on cancer incidence and health care delivery.

It is a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to see "Rachel's Daughters," said Susanne Kelley, coordinator of Women's Programs. She said they brought it

see FILM, page 7

Crushing the competition



ERIK HENDERSON/MUSTANG DAILY

Industrial technology freshmen Blake Bolton, foreground, and Adam Heitzman pose with their mechanical systems project that is designed to crush cans. The project was for IT 150 Mechanical Systems and required students to design a can-crushing mechanism that will make the can no taller than one-quarter of an inch in one motion. Their model uses a bike chain and a sprocket.

Leaders gather to forge future Afghan government

By Rone Tempest

LOS ANGELES TIMES



(WIRE) PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Hoping to patch up bitter differences born of two decades of war, several hundred Afghan leaders representing exiled political groups, monarchists and anti-Taliban forces have gathered in this frontier city to discuss the creation of an alternative government for Afghanistan.

The two-day Assembly for Peace and National Unity in Afghanistan, scheduled to begin Wednesday, is the first in a series of such gatherings here, inside Afghanistan and possibly in Turkey over the next few weeks aimed at producing a ruling council, or loya jirga, acceptable to the Afghan people.

"This meeting will be a milestone for the future course of Afghanistan — a very noble event," said Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani, the leader of a refugee group opposed to the extremist Islamic Taliban regime.

Gailani, who convened the Peshawar conference, said he hopes to produce a resolution by Thursday outlining the broad contours of an alternative government.

But Gailani, a royalist who supports the return of Afghanistan's exiled 87-year-old monarch, Mohammad Zaher Shah, to whom he is related, acknowledged that the success of the meeting has been complicated by the continued U.S. bombing in Afghanistan. In addition to solidifying support for the Taliban, the strikes have prevented those in Afghanistan who support the creation of an alternative government from attending the meeting here.

"We don't know how many will be able to make it across the border,"

see AFGHAN, page 2

Myriad of issues face Forest Service

Forest Service strives to balance recreation, preservation in developing forest management plan

By Stephen Curran

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Money doesn't grow on trees, not even for the Forest Service.

Reflecting growing trends toward conservation and preservation, managers of the Los Padres National Forest have planned meetings to discuss how to allocate the Forest Service's resources. The meetings will help establish a general management direction.

"These meetings help guide future activities, how we manage the various activities in the forest," said Kathy Good, public affairs officer for the Los Padres National Forest.

The forest management plan, which is revised every 10 to 15 years, relies heavily on feedback from area residents, many of whom have filled out questionnaires or submitted opinions via mail or e-mail.

The Forest Service estimates that it has received approximately 11,000 recommendations, from which several themes have emerged.

The most prominent themes, Good said, are improved access, endangered species protection and wilderness designations.

"I think we'll be paying more attention to ways we can protect threatened and endangered species while still providing recreation for the people of the Central Coast," Good said.

Therein lies the problem, according to John Harris, professor of natural resource management. While the plans are still in "public comment mode," there are important issues that need to be addressed.

One of the pre-eminent issues, Harris said, is differing attitudes toward usage of the parks. As California becomes increasingly diverse, it makes it increasingly difficult to legislate the ways in which people use the parks.

"It's important that we don't love the place to death," he said.

The answer lies in education, because so many people have never been exposed to such environments,

Harris said. However, finding the resources for such programs can often be difficult. It is this lack of education that causes a rift between many inner-city residents who have not had the necessary wilderness training when they choose to vacation in these areas.

Because of this lack of education, many parks and forests have implemented programs to help educate campers and hikers. In Yosemite, for example, campers see a video on dangers posed by bears before they are allowed to enter.

"They set it up so that before you can get in, you have to know things," Harris said.

As open spaces continue to decrease, there is also a renewed urgency to understand the creatures and ecosystems of the forest, Good said.

"We must identify what we want the forest to look like in 10 to 15 years," she said.

see FOREST, page 7

DAILY Weather

TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 6:17 a.m. / Set: 5:16 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 1:47 p.m. / Set: N/A

TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

High: 7:01 a.m. / 4.17 feet

Low: 11:56 a.m. / 3.20 feet

High: 5:04 p.m. / 4.34 feet

5-DAY FORECAST



THURSDAY

High: 74° / Low: 49°



FRIDAY

High: 77° / Low: 49°



SATURDAY

High: 74° / Low: 50°



SUNDAY

High: 74° / Low: 50°



MONDAY

High: 76° / Low: 49°

By Greg Kane

THE STATE HORNET

(U-WIRE) SACRAMENTO — More than a week after the discovery of a suspicious substance resulted in the evacuation of the building, Santa Clara Hall re-opened its doors Thursday.

The building was shut down Oct. 10 after a worker in the building discovered an envelope containing a white, powdery substance, a \$5 bill and a note with the message "Sleepers will awaken," according to Sacramento police officer Dennis Biederman.

Initial tests conducted by the Sacramento County Health Department showed the substance was not anthrax — the potentially deadly bacteria receiving international attention after being mailed to prominent figures and businesses around the world. The common method of delivery for the anthrax has been a white powder included in mailed letters.

Subsequent test results released Thursday showed that the substance was not a biohazardous material, said

Frank Whitlatch of the Sacramento State Public Affairs Office.

"They're sure it's not a biohazard," Whitlatch said. "We know it's not anthrax, and it's not a plague."

It is still not known what the substance was, Whitlatch said.

The incident is still under investigation, said Campus Police Public Information Officer John Hamrick. It could have been a prank, or just left accidentally, but there's no way to tell at this point.

"It's hard to say," Hamrick said. "It's too early to tell."

Combined with the current anthrax scare, the incident has campus police and others in the University acting with more caution, Hamrick said.

"We're on an extra level of awareness right now," he said.

Some students said having the scare occur so close to home made them more cautious and aware of what's happening in the rest of the country.

Senior Kristen Spillers said she walked by the building just after it closed and immediately connected it to the anthrax incidents that, at the time,

were just beginning to surface.

"I just kind of walked by, and waited to hear what happened," Spillers said.

Senior Jennifer Stuto

said the threat seemed further away when it was happening on the East Coast, but the incident at Santa Clara Hall, however benign, made her think about it more.

"The closer it gets, the closer it seems," Stuto said. "The chances that it could happen to me or (anyone else) increased tenfold."

Stuto said the idea that something like anthrax could reach the Sac State campus is not as far off as she once thought.

"I don't want it to be true, but it very well could (reach Sac State)," Stuto said. "Anything can really happen at this point."

A contractor found the envelope while working on renovations on Santa Clara Hall. The building was quickly evacuated, and response teams from Sacramento Fire Department and Sacramento Police Department closed off the area soon after.

The contractor who was exposed to the substance was stripped down and scrubbed as a precautionary measure, said Captain David Whitt, public information officer for the fire department.

Most of Santa Clara Hall was reopened the following morning, but the section where the powder and note were found remained closed until the test results came through.

Hamrick said there is no way of knowing when the investigation will be completed.

AFGHAN

continued from page 1

Gailani said.

As the U.S. campaign continues and opposition Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan advance, there has been increased concern that diplomatic and political efforts to construct a new Afghan political structure are lagging far behind the events on the battlefield.

A senior Pakistani official estimated Tuesday that it will take "weeks if not months" to construct a viable alternative to the Taliban. This creates enormous problems for post-Taliban order if the Northern Alliance forces capture Kabul, the Afghan capital, before any interim government structure can be forged.

"Our hope is that the Afghan groups can find a common ground," the official said in a background briefing in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital.

But the official admitted that it's

unclear just how much power and support any of the predominantly ethnic Pashtun attendees at the meeting still have. Many are aging former mujahedeen leaders who have spent years living as refugees in Pakistan or overseas.

"They have considerable conflicts of ambition. They may have exaggerated their influence, and there is no way for us to assess how much influence they still have until they actually move into Afghanistan," the official said. He said the three measures of

support are how many fighters they have, how much territory they control and how many weapons they possess.

The official noted that the Taliban's sweeping 1996 victory in Afghanistan was built on hundreds of detailed agreements with local commanders, many of whom served leaders now in exile.

U.S.-led efforts to spark an organized resistance to the Taliban in Afghanistan, particularly in the largely Pashtun south, have so far failed, the official said.

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Prices Effective Oct. 24, thru
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National Briefs

Anthrax confirmed as cause of death for postal worker

WASHINGTON — It was determined Tuesday that Joseph Curseen, 47, and Thomas Morris Jr., 55, postal employees that worked at a facility that handles much of the mail bound for Washington, died of inhalation anthrax. Two other workers from the same facility are in serious condition and are being treated for anthrax at a Virginia hospital.

President Bush has suggested that the anthrax-laced letters are directly linked to the Sept. 11 aerial attacks.

The Justice Department released copies of the anthrax-laced letters that were sent to media locations. The letters were all postmarked on Sept. 11, and are nearly identical. The text makes reference to the letters having anthrax, and they all said "Death to America. Death to Israel. Allah is great."

Ninety percent of those who contract inhalation anthrax die from the infection.

— Reuters

U.S. helicopters receive Pakistani fire

WASHINGTON — While refueling during a mission to recover the U.S. search and rescue helicopter that crashed over the weekend, another U.S. helicopter received ground fire from a Pakistani airbase. The helicopter stopped refueling and returned fire. It returned to an airbase that is currently being used by U.S. forces. The crew and the air-

craft were not harmed.

Other U.S. helicopters have also received fire while in Pakistan.

The Taliban have said that they may be responsible for the helicopter that crashed. The Pentagon claims that it was an accident caused by heavy dust that was kicked up by the rotor blades when the craft was trying to land.

— Reuters

Terrorist cell related to attacks found in Germany

WASHINGTON — Attorney General John Ashcroft said Tuesday that three of the hijackers and three of the accomplices that are being sought for participation in the Sept. 11 attacks were from a terrorist cell that has been operating out of Hamburg, Germany since 1999.

Germany has issued international arrest warrants for the fugitive accomplices. Twelve FBI agents have been sent to Germany to help with the investigations there.

The accomplices were roommates while attending school in Germany in the 1990s. They moved to Florida in February.

— Associated Press

Two children die during wait at border

EL PASO, Texas — A brother and sister died from carbon monoxide poisoning while their truck was stuck in lines at the U.S. - Mexico border. Daniel Valenzuela, 6, and his sister Erika, 13, were pronounced dead on Sunday. They were taking a nap in the bed of the truck during the wait when exhaust fumes leaked

through holes caused by rust in the floor. A camper shell prevented the fumes from escaping. Both of the children's parents were in the truck's cabin.

The family was returning from Ciudad Juarez, a trip that usually takes 20 minutes. But back-ups due to increased security at the border caused the family to wait in traffic for an hour and a half to cross a bridge that crossed into east El Paso.

— Reuters

International Briefs

Europe

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — In a step to boost Northern Ireland's peace process, the Irish Republican Army has begun to disarm. Last week, the IRA had refused to disarm after British loyalists requested it during peace talks. The IRA views disarmament as a form of surrender. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that it is now possible to reduce British troops, which was a key demand of the Republicans.

Arms, ammunition and explosives have been disabled so that they are permanently un-useable. The IRA has Europe's largest underground arsenal.

— Reuters

Middle East

JERUSALEM — President Bush maintains his position that Israel should pull out of the six Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank that it has occupied

since an Israeli cabinet member was assassinated last week. Until now Israel has resisted the request, but has said that they may withdraw if the Palestinian Authority is able to maintain peace. Israeli authorities have said that they had no intent of controlling the areas for an extended amount of time.

Three Palestinians were killed late Tuesday by Israeli forces. At least one Israeli and 35 Palestinians have died in the conflict that started last week after the assassination, which was in retaliation for the death of the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in August. More than 660 Palestinians and 177 Israelis have died in the Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation that began in September 2000.

— Reuters

Asia-Pacific

JAVA — Forty-four survivors from a refugee boat that sunk over the weekend reached safety at a hostel in the capital of Java Tuesday. The refugees were on a boat that originally held 421 men, women and children. At least 350 died. Indonesia has said that they will begin an investigation of the wreck.

The boat was run by a criminal gang that charged refugees \$800 to \$1,900 each for one-way transportation to Australian territorial waters. The boat was so crowded with passengers that 21 demanded to be let off the boat on an island shortly after they left harbor, and they are believed to still be there. The engines broke down while the vessel

was in rough waters between Java and Sumatra. The refugees were primarily Iraqi, but there were also some Iranians, Afghans, Palestinians and Algerians. The crew is believed to have been Indonesian.

— BBC News

Middle East

JACOBABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani authorities said that 140 people were arrested during a demonstration near an airbase by Islamic militants Tuesday. The airbase is being used to support U.S. personnel. Protestors made no move to march on the base and were approached by baton-wielding police officers. At least five protestors were injured.

Two smaller groups of demonstrators, of 15 and 25 people, were arrested Tuesday shortly after the other demonstration was broken up when they began to march toward another air base.

Police have erected sandbag bunkers and road blockades inside Jacobabad. Most roads to the city have been blocked and patrolled for several days in order to prevent entry by large groups.

President Gen. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan maintains that their aid to the United States is only logistical and that no attacks against Afghanistan will be launched from Pakistan.

— Associated Press

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guilford

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ASI STUDENT DIRECTORY

Each year the Associated Students, Inc., produces a Student Directory which is made available to all students, faculty and staff at Cal Poly.

The ASI Student Directory provides a listing for all students attending Cal Poly. This listing includes Name, Phone, E-mail Address, Major and Class Level for each student on campus. Anyone who does not wish to have their personal information included in the Directory should access *Mustang Info*: www.mustanginfo.calpoly.edu, *Student Directory Information Restrictions*, to modify information access.

Modification of Information Restrictions must be completed no later than November 10, 2001.

The holiday season is just around the corner, and so is the frantic search for the perfect gift. Thankfully, the perfect gourmet or exotic gift can be found here at Cal Poly. Cal Poly's College of Agriculture processes and sells chocolate, meat, dairy products,

Making Gourmet cuisine Poly-style

By Jana Larson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

and plants on campus.

One of the greatest gourmet treats is the chocolate candy made by Cal Poly Chocolates. Handmade chocolates from a high quality Swiss chocolate are for sale either individually or by the box at several places on and off campus.

"Our chocolate has a higher quality taste and aroma because of the chocolate that we use," said Tom Neuhaus, nutritional science professor. "Our candy is made with a chocolate that blends African and South American beans."

Cal Poly Chocolates has been in business since April 2000, and has been trying different types of chocolate treats. The varieties are endless, such as the favorite treat of choco-



Tsuyeko Western, left, an animal science sophomore, and Kate Harvey, center, an animal science senior, stack ground beef hamburger patties during a Cal Poly food science lab. The lab teaches students the necessary steps to process cuts of meat into ground beef.

AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

late-covered graham crackers and smores, to chocolate covered nuts, as well as fruit such as papayas and mangos. A Cal Poly chocolate bar designed by students is also available for purchase in a gift box.

The chocolate business, run by three student employees, was started in order to generate income for the nutritional science department. Neuhaus wants to use the money to

fund a new concentration, culinary science.

Other gift ideas that are made and sold on campus are dairy products. Using milk produced by Cal Poly cows, the Cal Poly Creamery processes the cheese and ice cream that is sold at the Campus Market. Campus Dining also purchases some of the ice cream and cheese made on campus.

"Last year, the creamery processed

about 66,000 pounds of cheese and made 660 gallons of ice cream," said Dr. Les Ferreira, interim department head of the dairy science department, and interim director of the Dairy Product Technology Research Center.

The money from selling the dairy products is used to maintain the dairy and creamery on campus, since both facilities must be self-sufficient.

"(Cal Poly) candy is made with a chocolate that blends African and South American beans."

Tom Neuhaus
nutritional science professor

"About 40 students work at the dairy and 15 to 20 students work in the creamery during the year," Ferreira said.

The meat science department also sells products made by students. Most of the meat products are sold at the meat lab; however, on occasion the Campus Market will sell jerky, linguica and frozen ground beef. A popular favorite for the holidays is the Thanksgiving ham. The fully cooked hams are cured, slow-cooked and smoked for better flavor and tenderness.

"Most meat sales are by word of mouth," said Bob Vance, an animal science professor. "For more information on buying meat, folks can call me at 756-2254."

Meat has been on sale at Cal Poly for the past 30 years. Students make the product in labs as part of instruction and faculty sells the product to recover costs associated with the lab.

If giving food isn't the gift that is just right for the holidays, there are always plants. The plants, ranging from bedding and potted plants to cut flowers, are grown by horticulture students and sold at the University Union, in front of the agricultural science building, at the Poly Plant Shop and even at Farmers Market.

FUN FOOD FACT:

What is the difference between white egg shells and brown egg shells?

Contrary to popular belief, brown eggs aren't a healthier alternative to white eggs.

The color difference is due to the specific breed of hen, according to the Egg Nutrition Center. Hens with white feathers and white earlobes will lay white eggs, whereas hens with red feathers and matching-colored earlobes give us brown eggs. And be assured, the color of the egg shell has absolutely nothing to do with the taste of the egg.

But are chicken eggs just limited to brown and white?

No! They also come in blue or even a nice speckled finish (though you may have to make a special request at your local supermarket for these).

So, there you have it: The difference between egg shell color is purely cosmetic; it's just a matter of a baby taking after its mom.

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Recipe of the Week

Burger of the Gods

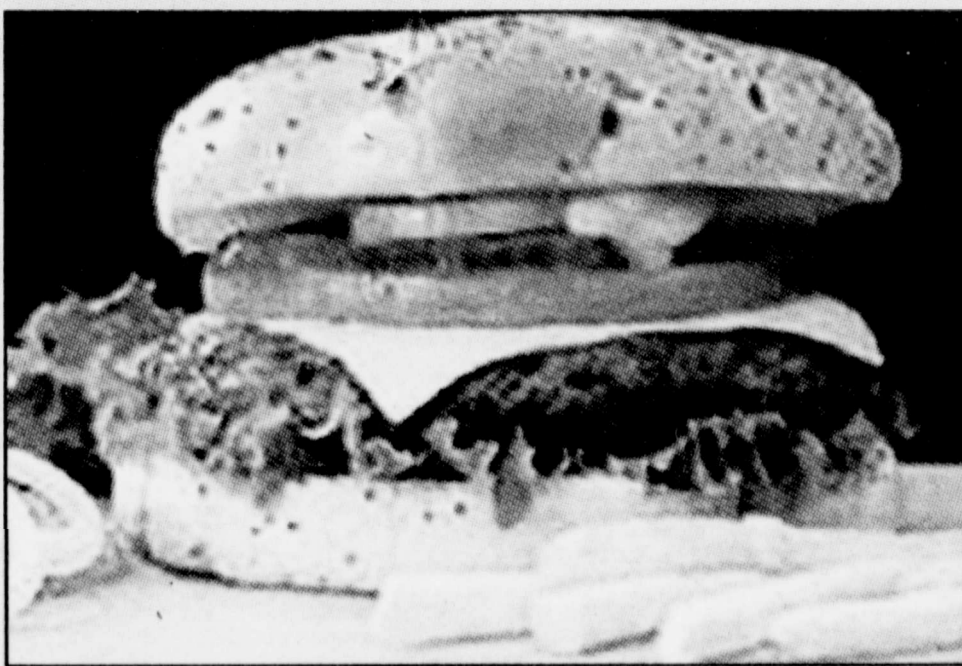
8 ounces chuck, trimmed, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
 8 ounces sirloin, trimmed, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

In separate batches, pulse the chuck and the sirloin in a food processor 10 times. Combine the chuck, sirloin and kosher salt in a large bowl. Form the meat into 5-ounce patties.

Heat a cast iron skillet or griddle over medium-high heat for two to three minutes. Place the hamburger patties in the pan.

For medium rare burgers, cook the patties for four minutes on each side. For medium burgers, cook the patties for five minutes on each side. Flip the burgers only once during cooking.

Yield: 3 servings

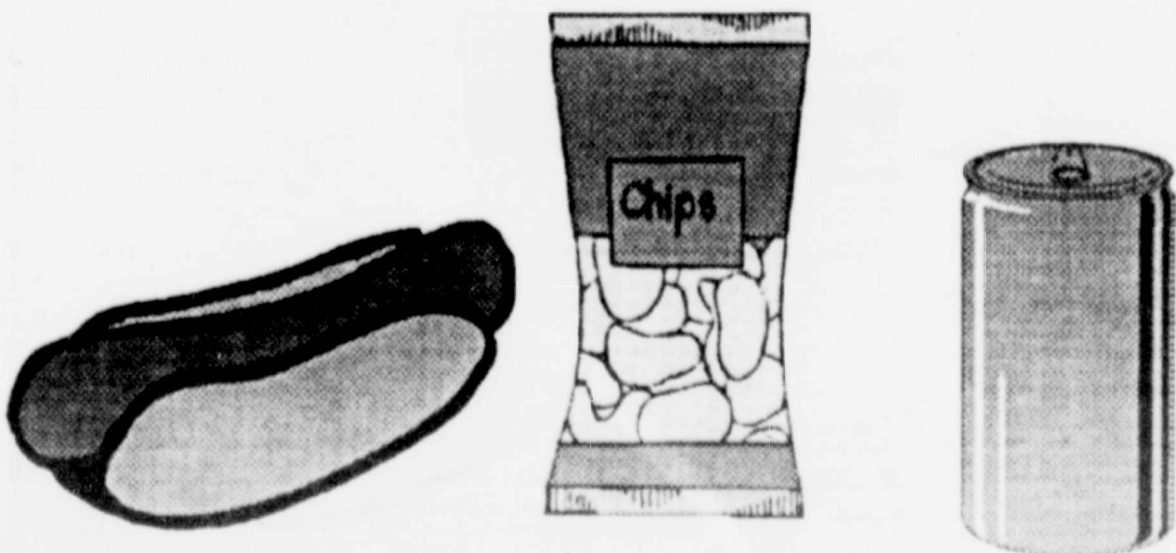


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BI-MONTHLY

FOOD & politics

By Meredith Rogers

Our government has become a puppet for powerful corporations. The determining factor for our government's actions depends on which corporation poured the most money into paying off the legislators.

One would hope that health information given to Americans escapes this corruption and serves the single purpose of educating Americans about the best way to obtain and maintain a healthy lifestyle. But such a hope would be naive.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Nearly 50,000 American women die of breast cancer every year. The slogan we hear is: "Early Detection Is Your Best Prevention," and women are reminded to get mammograms and routinely check themselves for lumps. The idea is that if the problem is caught early, it can be removed with the hope that it won't resurface. Unfortunately, it takes

Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) launched Breast Cancer Awareness Month in 1987. ICI is the parent company of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, which sells Tamoxifen. Tamoxifen is the world's best-selling cancer therapy drug. ICI has been the sole financial sponsor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month since the event's beginning, and the corporation has been allowed to approve or veto every poster, pamphlet and advertisement Breast Cancer Awareness Month uses. This corporation exclusively funds and controls every piece of information distributed during Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

It now becomes perfectly clear why no mention is made of diet in the prevention of breast cancer: real prevention of breast cancer would not be financially favorable for ICI! No wonder only 23 percent of American women are aware that there are any dietary steps they can take to lower their chances of developing breast cancer.

As stated above, fruits and

"Health information from the media may not be trustworthy, but the fact that fruits and vegetables are superlative food choices will never change."

about 10 years of growth before the tumor is a detectable size, and by that time the cancerous cells have likely metastasized, or spread to other parts of the body.

There is a much more effective means of breast cancer prevention that, oddly enough, is virtually ignored during Breast Cancer Awareness Month: abundant fruits and vegetables! It is well established that the incidence of breast cancer is much higher in countries that eat diets high in saturated fat, such as our own.

The incidence of breast cancer victims in Japan is much lower. Consumption of soybeans is suggested as a contributing factor in the low incidence of breast and prostate cancer in Japanese men and women. Sadly, the Japanese are being influenced by Western culture, and numbers of breast cancer in Japan are on the rise as meat and dairy are increasingly present on their plates.

If diet plays such a pivotal role in the prevention of breast cancer, why does Breast Cancer Awareness Month overlook such prevention? I recently came upon the answer in an excellent book I am reading, "The Food Revolution," by John Robbins.

vegetables are the best protection against breast cancer, and all cancer for that matter. A recent published study noted that women with the highest intake of vegetables had a 46 percent lower risk of breast cancer compared with women who had the lowest intake.

The foods with the highest anti-cancer activity include: garlic, soybeans, cabbage, ginger, licorice and carrots. Also on the list of cancer-protective activity are cruciferous vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts), tomatoes, brown rice and whole wheat. The reason is simple: plant foods contain phytochemicals and antioxidants; non-nutritive substances that are powerful health protectors. Every bite of a brightly-colored fruit or vegetable delivers a dose of these substances, which possess anti-tumor activity, quench free radicals, and block hormone actions that are associated with the development of cancer.

Health information from the media may not be trustworthy, but the fact that fruits and vegetables are superlative food choices will never change.

Meredith Rogers is a nutritional science senior.

Bin Laden should become one of 'living dead'

Recently, I received an e-mail claiming an appropriate punishment for terrorist Osama bin Laden would be giving him a sex change and sending him back to Afghanistan to live as a woman under the Taliban regime. I think this would be sufficient punishment, considering the life of women under Taliban rule.

The women of Afghanistan are often referred to, and refer to themselves as, the "living dead."

Commentary

Nearly every day of their brief 50-year life expectancy is lived in fear and isolation. Web sites such as www.rawa.org, by the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan, cite many kinds of offenses. Women are not allowed to leave the house, hold a job, receive an education or ride in cars unaccompanied by a male relative. If women do leave their husband's home, they must be shrouded in the head-to-toe covering called the burqa. The mesh covering the woman's eyes is the only way she can see life beyond the veil. However, the small opening in the burqa provides poor peripheral vision and is the culprit behind many

pedestrian and car accidents.

After Russia pulled out of Afghanistan, the civil war continued and the Taliban took over the government. A group of uneducated, student-aged rebels, the Taliban controls roughly 90 percent of Afghanistan. In recent years the group has curbed all women's rights and nearly removed women from public view. One of the first steps of the Taliban was to stop allowing women to receive an education. Only four to five percent of primary school-aged children are educated in Afghanistan, and now, of all 14 facilities of Kabul University, no women attend. Women are completely denied the right to any education from kindergarten to graduate school.

Women were also removed from their professionalized positions as teachers, doctors and government officials. Before the Taliban took control, women made up 70 percent of the teachers in Kabul, 50 percent of all civil servants and students and 40 percent of doctors. Now, women face begging and prostitution as a means of survival. With a fertility rate of 5.79 children per woman, families are large. Due to the years of internal unrest and

war, 60,000 to 100,000 women and children in Kabul alone are left without husbands and fathers. This leaves the unemployed women to support their families.

Not only have women been denied the most crucial choices in their lives, they are also banned from wearing make-up or nail polish, cutting their hair short, wearing colorful or stylish clothes, white socks and shoes, walking loudly and laughing in public. All external windows of homes must be painted black to prevent passers-by from seeing women in the homes.

Gender-specific abuse runs rampant, according to Amnesty International. Rape, women-burning, mass abduction, forced marriage and prostitution are all aspects of everyday life for women in Afghanistan. The same government officials who patronize a prostitute can later have her stoned to death in a sports arena with thousands of onlookers. According to an Associated Press story from May 1, 2000, this actually occurred.

Drug abuse continues to be a problem among the hopeless women of Afghanistan. The country is the No. 1 producer of opium, and many women

use the drug to "treat" the depression they face on a daily basis. Women have little access to health care and medicine, and medical facilities are ill-equipped and highly unsanitary.

The situation will not improve as long as the Taliban controls Afghanistan. The United Nations said the Taliban violated women's rights with "unabated severity." The Taliban foreign minister refuted this claim by saying that the UN reporter was "an ignorant and incompetent man who is working solely for money."

The Taliban regime needs to be taken from power. A new, balanced government needs to be created. Women need their rights returned. Yes, these claims are easier said than done. The UN, the United States and countries around the world need to focus on reforming Afghanistan after the War on Terrorism ends. The women of this country cannot be abandoned. They need to have a new life beyond the veil. In the meantime, however, let's get bin Laden and let him live the life of the "living dead."

Lyndsay Lundgren is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Amnesty International is a respectable organization

Editor,

To respond to Chris Gallion's "Government is trying to serve the best interest of the people," (Oct. 23), I would just like to defend Amnesty International. Despite what he calls it, AI's "brainwashing" is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly (Resolution 217 A (III) of 10) in December 1948. AI is a very respectable organization recognized by 162 countries and territories. It is impartial and independent of any government, political persuasion or religious creed. His proclamation that they are "very clearly anti-American" is preposterous, and his comment that they "fail to mention anything good about the United States" is comical.

AI generally does not cite the good things. They are not a "pat on the back, we'll tell you what's good in the world" organization. They report all the violations against humanity. The less they report about you the better you are doing. If Mr. Gallion had been a little more open-minded and a little less quick to jump to conclusions about an organization he is obviously poorly informed of, he would have noticed that.

Furthermore, the propaganda that Amnesty International is "anti-American" is laughable at best. Quoting Mr. Gallion: "I say propaganda because it is the spreading of his ideas, his 'information' and his rumors for the purpose of injuring institutions, causes or people." AI documents all the violations that a country commits against humanity, and this includes the United States. It's not their fault that they have to cite a lot of them. Many of these include our ill treatment of prisoners, the use of the death penalty and police brutality. Some of these might be isolated cases, some may not be.

However, if the "anti-American" comment results from AI's work in Afghanistan, then it is utterly repugnant. AI is in Afghanistan to ensure that humanitarian aid is given to the refugees, and not bullets. Notably, if one were to quickly surf through AI's Web site (www.amnesty.org) and coverage of Afghanistan, one might see a picture of a badly malnourished child (Reuters photo). It looks like something out of the Holocaust. Amnesty is fighting to stop that, and I would

encourage anyone to argue why we shouldn't.

But interestingly enough, if one were to sort through the 2001 Report, one might notice that practically every other country in the world is also cited in one way or another. Some of these include the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and even Switzerland. Curiously, I noticed that both Norway and the Netherlands were absent from the year's list in addition to Panama. No entries from those three were recorded from January to December 2000.

Amnesty International is hardly "anti-American," unless you're ready to proclaim that it's also anti-British, anti-French, anti-German, anti-Italian and so on. As you can see, that would be absurd. Nevertheless, if you would like to call me "brainwashed" for believing in Amnesty International's mission to promote humanity and human rights worldwide, then go ahead.

Brian Takeuchi is a landscape architecture freshman.

Information backs up claims about human rights abuses

Editor,

This is in response to Chris Gallion's "Government is trying to serve the best interest of the people," on Oct. 22. For your information, there is plenty of information to back up the numbers that Chris Heisler has claimed as Iraqi casualties. The vivid memory comes to mind of a highway of Iraqi citizens with hand carts and animals, leaving a country that was "accidentally" bombed and all the people in it destroyed. If you think there were no casualties, go to some U.S.-based Muslim Web sites. Type in "Quran" on the AOL search engine, and you will find some sites.

As for the 70 percent of the suffering caused by the United States, I would venture to say that capitalism is the source of a lot of suffering worldwide, even within our own borders. If the United States happens to be the impetus behind this capitalism, then so be it – shame on us.

I must stick up for Amnesty International. Obviously, you are too skeptical of anything that might take away from your pocketbook. There are plenty of pictures and firsthand accounts of civil and human rights abuses worldwide on their site. Don't base your opinions on magazines titled

Forbes or Money – they are obviously biased to do one thing: make money and capitalize! The United States is currently shaking hands and further embracing countries that systematically abuse women and homosexuals, two groups that cannot change who they are. There is a picture of a group of people beating a woman to death in a public square in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the Amnesty International Web site. Who would you prefer that we trust on women's rights issues? The Family Research Council?

I agree with you on anarchy being a lost cause. But I believe that Chris is simply expressing his frustration with the way our government runs itself in an ambiance of quasi-fascism, based on mindless capitalism. I agree with him in that sense, but I plan to get involved in politics and do something about it. A message to both Chrises. I suggest that you both go and live abroad in another country on foreign exchange. It will open your views immensely and make you understand the world much better. Check it out at www.gateway.cal-state.edu/csuienet. I love the U.S.A., but I also care immensely about the world!

Rodney Wallwork is a modern languages and literatures senior.

Citizenship should not be a factor in tuition rates

Editor,

This letter is in response to Kat Corey's opinion, "Legal citizens deserve lower tuition before illegals," (Oct. 22). I am deeply saddened and hurt that such ignorant thinking still exists in today's college-level students. We should all know that immigrants founded this country with a dream seeking a better life for themselves. Throughout U.S. history, immigrants played and still play a vital role in the success of our prosperous economy. Today, most of the current U.S. populations are descendants of immigrants. Whether they wanted to or not, they built the great railroads across America, picked the cotton for our clothes and pick the vegetables that we eat today.

Gov. Gray Davis signed Assembly Bill 540 on Oct. 11 and was not awaiting his signature when Miss Corey's opinion was published. Under this bill, students (of any ethnicity) can qualify for "in state" tuition fees and financial aid if certain crite-

ria are met. First, they must attend at least three years and graduate from a California high school. Also, they must show that they have applied for lawful immigration status with the INS or show proof of lawful status. This allows ANY student who graduated high school alongside you the same opportunity as you. They can get financial aid to go to college in the state that they graduated from to pursue a dream and provide a better life for their loved ones. It's a sad thing to see people give up on their dreams. However, if they have the "fuerza" to do it, I'm sure that they will do whatever it takes to achieve that dream. Your ancestors and mine had to overcome many obstacles to make this country what it is today. If a LEGAL or illegal citizen really wants to attend a certain school of their choice, the price of tuition should not be an issue.

Jose Luis Garcia is an industrial engineering senior.

'Just because they got caught' excuse doesn't cut it

Editor,

I'm writing in response to the commentary by Leslie Edwards ("Sigma Chi has right to recruit like other fraternities," Oct. 23). I would like to comment on the logic that she employed in making her case. She writes, "Sigma Chi was punished for hazing only because they got caught. This doesn't mean that it is the only fraternity that hazes its pledges."

This is an informal fallacy known as Tu Quoque (you're that too). While I have no opinion about the greek system, I find this kind of logic to be a prevalent problem within our society as a whole (i.e. Bill Clinton shouldn't have been indicted – after all, he just got caught doing something other presidents have done.)

I do not know if other fraternities are guilty of hazing, nor do I know positively that other presidents have been guilty of sexual misconduct (during working hours I might add – try getting away with that at your job someday), but I do know that people regularly speed in their cars. Try using the "I shouldn't be fined for speeding because everyone else is" excuse to the judge the next time you get a ticket. I'll bet he doesn't buy it either.

Kevin Cumblidge is a physics senior.

Mustang

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"Well, you have to pay rent whether your fancy has been struck or not."

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Win with Campus Express Club

Three lucky Campus Express Club members will win prizes in Fall quarter's Campus Express Club drawing.

One Cal Poly student will receive reimbursement of Fall quarter in-state tuition, one member will gain a textbook credit of \$200 to his or her Campus Express Club membership, and one member will get \$50 added to their membership.

To be eligible to win the tuition and textbook reimbursements, members simply join Campus Express Club or add to their memberships during October. To win the \$50 credit, add \$50.

Campus Express Club is accessed through the PolyCard (campus ID). After adding value to Campus Express Club, the PolyCard is used to purchase food and school supplies at restaurants on campus, the Campus Market,

El Corral Bookstore and most vending machines. Open Access computer labs also accept Campus Express Club as payment for PolyCard printing.

Join or add value online at www.cpfoundation.org. You can also call (805) 756-2849 or (805) 756-5939 to add value using Visa, MasterCard or Discover, or stop by one of the Express Stations located in most restaurants on campus, or go to Customer Service (Bldg. 19) or the Foundation Cashier (Bldg. 15). If your PolyCard hasn't already been activated stop by Customer Service in the atrium of Light House.

Anyone joining or adding value during October is automatically entered in the drawing and winners will be notified by telephone or email. Good luck in the drawing!

Paid Advertisement

News

Wednesday, October 24, 2001 7

FOREST

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Good likens the forest management plan to the zoning plan in many cities and urban areas; it involves deciding what is appropriate for these wilderness areas in a way similar to devising a city's general plan.

In 1988, when the last forest management plan was created, recreation was an issue important to many area residents. And, while recreation remains vitally important, there has also been a shift toward recreation that does not endanger the environment.

However, because lifespans of forests and wilderness areas are often hundreds of years, it is important to take preventative measures against harming the environment, Harris said.

"It's hard to fix it once you've damaged it," he said.

Aside from Los Padres, the Forest Service is revising the management plans for Angeles, Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests in Southern California.

The official planning process began last month, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The completed plan will be available December 2003.

FILM

continued from page 1

to Cal Poly because it is a different twist on what they normally do — banners in the University Union and balloons in front of the Women's Center. Kelley has not had the opportunity to see the film yet, but she said her friend told her to wait and see it on the big screen.

"Those that have seen it say that it is very powerful," she said. "I can't wait to watch it."

Kelley said that many breast cancer awareness programs promote the idea that "the best prevention is early detection," but the focus of this film, as well as SLOCAN's, is

prevention rather than treating the disease.

SLOCAN is a newly formed organization that chose October for its campaign to broaden cancer awareness beyond the Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Monteen said San Luis Obispo has agreed to declare October "Stop Cancer Where it Starts Month."

Monteen said that a major cause of cancer starts with the environment, and is not hereditary. She said that since World War II some 250,000 new chemicals have been introduced to the environment and that precautionary action needs to be taken with these chemicals.

"A little more precaution and we'll have less cancer," Monteen said.

23rd Annual Street Fair
OKTOBERFEST
OCTOBER 28, 2001 ~ 9 am - 4 pm
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Over 80 Booths. Arts, Crafts, Ethnic Foods & Beverages, and Children's Pony Rides. Take Part in the 4-mile Run, Boat Races, or Just Share A Wonderful Sunday Outing.

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 Meets weekly in rm. 153 Health Center Bldg. 27 Medical Library.
 Thurs. 11:00 AM

CAMPUS CLUBS

BIKE FIX

Thursday in the UU Craft Center the Cal Poly Wheelmen will be having a bike fix at 11am. For only \$5, we will tune-up your bike like new, parts excl.

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Where's My Mustang Daily

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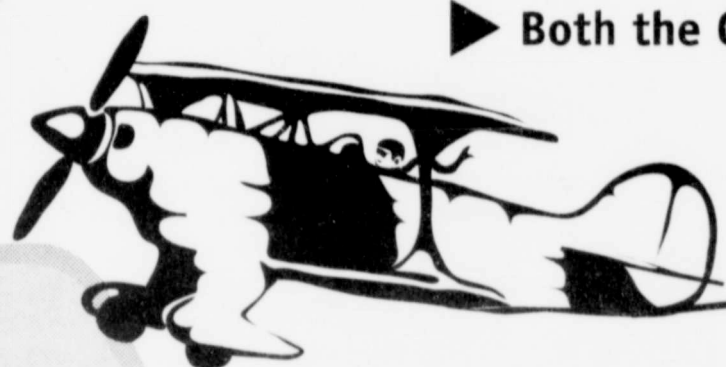
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Will Students and Classes at Cal Poly be Affected by Failing CSU Contract Negotiations?

Your Cal Poly faculty and staff negotiations with the CSU Chancellor are failing over the issues of compensation and working conditions. Together, faculty and staff form the backbone of the university and maintain a quality learning environment. California Faculty Association (CFA) data show that 10 years ago 55% of the CSU budget went to student instruction and it has now dropped to 47%. Meantime, the workload has increased for faculty and staff. To maintain the quality of education, the CFA wants to reduce class sizes, stabilize student-to-faculty ratios and to extend protections for long-term lecturers who have no employment protection.

NEGOTIATION UPDATE:

- ▶ The Chancellor's Office received an 8.5% legislative budget increase, but has offered the California State Employees Association (CSEA) a merit salary increase of less than 2%!
- ▶ The Chancellor also refused the CFA proposed increase in compensation of 5.7%.
- ▶ Both the CSEA and CFA feel this is unfair and need your support!



Fair Contracts for CSU Employees NOW

How Will this Affect Your Quality of Education?

If the Chancellor has his way, it will have a negative effect on Cal Poly:

- Recruitment and retention of quality faculty and staff is more difficult due to the heavy workload for faculty and low wages for staff. Other critical problems not faced at most other campuses in the CSU system include a health care crisis, unaffordable housing, and poor working conditions.
- Because of this, some existing employees may choose to relocate elsewhere.
- In turn, the quality of faculty and staff will plummet and this will cause the high quality of education at Cal Poly to deteriorate.

How Can Students Help?

"Teach CSU" gatherings will be held in October on CSU campuses.

Cal Poly will hold its "Teach CSU" Day on

**Thursday, October 25th
from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm.
on Dexter Lawn.**

Please join Cal Poly faculty and staff, community and labor leaders to share information about the issues facing us all in the CSU and learn how we can preserve the quality of education at Cal Poly as a precious resource for all. Your attendance at this "teach-in" will send an important message to the Chancellor and CSU Trustees!

How Can Cal Poly Employees Help?

Are you a union member? Are you sure?

CSEA "fee payers" for example, currently pay 95% dues as CSU employees but do not receive a long list of benefits that "full dues paying members" enjoy for only about \$2.40 more per month.

To improve the CSEA bargaining power and your working conditions, we encourage you to increase our "power in numbers" by joining today. With a stronger bargaining position, we can negotiate a stop to the increasing trend of eliminating our CSEA union jobs by contracting them out.

You can find out more at:
www.calcsea.org/csu

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